

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of resolving conflicts in the allocation of a shared computer resource between a first application to which the computer resource is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to the computer resource, comprising:

receiving, at the computer resource, a resource allocation request that includes an identity for the second application;

comparing, at the computer resource, the identity of the second application with an identity for a predetermined prioritized application to determine whether the second application is the predetermined prioritized application;

in the event that the second application is the predetermined prioritized application, the computer resource determining whether it has the authority to allocate itself to the second application; ~~and~~

in the event that the computer resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application, the computer resource allocating itself to the second application; and

in the event that the computer resource does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second application, the computer resource requesting a decision as to how to be allocated.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 1, comprising, in the event that the computer resource does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second application, the computer resource requesting a decision as to how to allocate itself.

5. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 4 1, wherein the decision depends on input from a user of the first and second applications.

6. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 4 1, wherein the decision depends on predetermined priorities assigned to the first and second applications.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 4 1, wherein the decision comprises denying allocation to the second application.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim ~~4~~ 28, wherein the identity of the prioritized application is stored at the computer resource.

10. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim ~~4~~ 28, comprising, in the event that the second application requests use of the computer resource without requesting its allocation, recording the second application as a user irrespective of whether it is the prioritized application.

11-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A resource management system for allocating a shared computer resource between a plurality of applications requesting access to the computer resource, wherein, in determining the allocation of the computer resource between a first application to which the computer resource is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to the computer resource, the computer resource is configured:

(a) to receive an identity for the second application,

(b) to compare the identity of the second application to an identity of a predetermined prioritized application to determine whether the second application is the prioritized application, and in the event that the second application is the predetermined prioritized application,

(c) to determine whether the computer resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application, and in the event that the computer resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application,

(d) to allocate itself to the second application-, and in the event that the computer resource does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second application,

(e) to request a decision from a resource manager as to how to allocate itself.

16. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 15, further comprising a focus controller for determining the application that is to be prioritized during resource allocation.

17. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 15, further comprising an application manager for resolving a conflict in a request for the computer resource between first and second applications.

18. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein the conflict arises when both the first and second applications require ownership of the computer resource.

19. (Currently amended) A computer program product, comprising:

~~a computer usable storage medium;~~

computer readable code embodied in ~~said~~ a storage medium executable by a computer for implementing conflict resolution in the allocation of a shared computer resource between a first application to which the computer resource is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to the computer resource, including: program code arranged to compare an identity of the second application with an identity of a predetermined prioritized application to determine whether the second application is the predetermined prioritized application, in the event that the second application is the predetermined prioritized application, to determine whether the computer resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application, and in the event that the computer resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application, to allocate the computer resource to the second application-, and in the event that the computer resource does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second application, to request a decision from a resource manager as to how to be allocated.

20-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 15, wherein the decision depends on input from a user of the first and second applications.

25. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 15, wherein the decision depends on predetermined priorities assigned to the first and second applications.

26. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 15, wherein the decision comprises denying allocation to the second application.

27. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein the identity of the prioritized application is stored at the computer resource.

28. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of resolving conflicts in the allocation of a shared computer resource between a first application to which the computer resource is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to the computer resource, comprising:

receiving, at the computer resource, a resource allocation request that includes an identity for the second application;

comparing, at the computer resource, the identity of the second application with an identity for a predetermined prioritized application to determine whether the second application is the predetermined prioritized application;

in the event that the second application is the predetermined prioritized application, determining, at the computer resource, whether the computer resource has the authority to allocate itself to the second application; and

in the event that the computer resource does not have the authority to allocate itself to the second application, the computer resource requesting a decision from a resource manager as to how to ~~allocate itself~~ be allocated.

29. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of resolving conflicts in the allocation of a plurality of shared computer resources between a first application to which one of said plurality of computer resources is currently allocated and a second application requesting access to said one of said plurality of computer resources, in a resource management system that includes a resource manager, the method comprising permitting said one of said plurality of computer resources to allocate itself to said second application if it has the authority to do so, without requesting permission to allocate itself from the resource manager; and permitting said one of said plurality of computer resources to request an allocation decision from the resource manager only if it does not have the authority to allocate itself to be allocated.

30. (Cancelled)